

Appl. No.: 10/723,956
Reply to Office Action of: April 26, 2005

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

In an exemplary embodiment of the invention, a tape feeder precisely advances a component-carrying tape to present sequential electronic components disposed at a pitch in the tape to a pick-and-place machine. In the exemplary tape feeder, a feed sprocket, and an encoder disc are operatively associated with each other and rotatably disposed on a common axis. A motor is operatively connected to the feed sprocket to repetitively rotate the feed sprocket over an angle corresponding to the pitch of the component-carrying tape. An encoder is disposed to read the encoder disk disc and provide a feedback signal indicating the angular position of the feed sprocket.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

A tape feeder for precisely advancing a component-carrying tape to present sequential electronic components disposed at a pitch in the tape to a pick-and-place machine. A feed sprocket and an encoder disc are operatively associated with each other and rotatably disposed on a common axis within a housing. A motor is operatively connected to the feed sprocket to repetitively rotate the feed sprocket over an angle corresponding to the pitch of the component-carrying tape. An encoder is disposed to read the encoder disk disc and provide a feedback signal indicating the angular position of the feed sprocket.